
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND POLICIES TO FACILITATE AND
ENCOURAGE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN BURIALS.

1 WHEREAS, there has been a recent increase of interest in
2 traditional Hawaiian practices for burials amongst Native
3 Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians; and
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5 WHEREAS, a recognized traditional Hawaiian practice for
6 treatment of a corpse involves reducing a corpse to its skeletal
7 remains, known as "iwi", and interring the iwi in a kapa or
8 lauhala container; and
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10 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian treatment of a corpse is
11 safe, feasible, and cost effective through the use of modern
12 crematories or other similar operations; and
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14 WHEREAS, modern treatment of corpses often involves
15 chemicals such as embalming fluids which when buried, can be
16 harmful to the environment as the chemicals will eventually be
17 released into the soil and aquifers; and
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19 WHEREAS, in comparison to modern burial techniques, a
20 traditional Hawaiian burial is a cleaner, more environmentally
21 friendly process; and
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23 WHEREAS, a traditional Hawaiian burial is also more cost
24 effective than modern burial techniques as a smaller burial plot
25 is required and costs of caskets are avoided; and
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27 WHEREAS, the decrease in space required for a burial plot
28 will result in an increase in the carrying capacities for
29 cemeteries; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not have rules and
2 policies addressing traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and
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4 WHEREAS, adopting rules and policies to address traditional
5 Hawaiian burial practices would encourage and promote the use of
6 traditional Hawaiian burial practices; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
11 Health is requested to develop and implement administrative
12 rules and policies applicable to the processing, burial, and
13 transportation of a corpse that would encourage and promote the
14 use of traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
17 requested to submit a report on its findings and actions to the
18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2016; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
23 Director of Health.

